

# Lancashire County Council

## Cabinet

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday, 2nd December, 2021 at 2.00 pm in Committee Room 'C' - The Duke of Lancaster Room, County Hall, Preston**

### Present:

County Councillor Phillippa Williamson      Leader of the Council  
(in the Chair)

### Cabinet Members

County Councillor Alan Vincent  
County Councillor Peter Buckley  
County Councillor Charles Edwards  
County Councillor Michael Green  
County Councillor Jayne Rear  
County Councillor Aidy Riggott  
County Councillor Cosima Towneley  
County Councillor Shaun Turner  
County Councillor Mrs Sue Whittam

County Councillors Azhar Ali OBE and Lorraine Beavers were also in attendance under the provisions of Standing Order No. C14(2).

### 1. Apologies for Absence

County Councillor Sue Whittam attended on behalf of County Councillor Graham Gooch for this meeting.

### 2. Disclosure of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

None

### 3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 4 November 2021

**Resolved:** That the minutes of the meeting held on 4 November 2021 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

### 4. Questions for Cabinet

One question was asked by a county councillor at the meeting and one question was asked by a county councillor to receive a written response. The questions and responses are attached to the minutes.

## **5. Adult Social Care Winter Plan 2021/22**

Cabinet considered a report on the Lancashire County Council Adult Social Care Winter Plan which had been updated for 2021/22. The plan reflected the services in place, and the social care planning and response to the winter pressures.

It was noted that that the winter was anticipated to be more challenging than ever, and the plan included information about various actions being taken across the winter period.

In presenting the report, members expressed thanks to all the officers involved in producing the report.

**Resolved:** That;

- i. The Lancashire County Council Adult Social Care Winter Plan for 2021/22, as set out at Appendix 'A' of the report, be approved; and
- ii. Support be given to the ongoing work of Adult Social Care to ensure people who need social care support across the winter period, coupled with the continuing pressures of the COVID-19 pandemic and the challenges across the care sector, get the right support for them at the right time.

## **6. Future of Wennington Hall School**

Cabinet considered a report on the future of Wennington Hall School and to consider the responses received to stage one of the consultation on the proposal to close the school.

**Resolved:** That;

- i. The consultation arrangements that were undertaken and the responses that were received in respect of the authority's proposal, be noted; and
- ii. Approval be given for the council to publish a Statutory Notice of its proposal to close Wennington Hall School, with implementation commencing from 31 August 2022.

## **7. Lancashire Education Strategy 2022-2025**

Cabinet considered a report seeking approval for the Lancashire Education Strategy 2022-2025.

It was noted that the Education Strategy was set out at Appendix 'A' of the report and set out the priorities in Lancashire for Education over the next three years.

**Resolved:** That, the following be approved;

- i. The Lancashire Education Strategy 2022-2025 and to support the priorities set out within it;
- ii. The implementation of the Team around the Schools and Settings model for school improvement; and
- iii. That an annual report on the Education Strategy be submitted to the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee.

## **8. Proposal to Extend the Age Range at Ribblesdale High School, Clitheroe**

Cabinet considered a report proposing to extend the aged range of pupils at Ribblesdale High School, Clitheroe.

In presenting the report, it was noted that if a decision was not to be made within two months of the end of the representation period, then the proposal and any representations about the proposals would be passed to the schools' adjudicator for decision.

**Resolved:** That;

- i. Approval be given to extend the age range at Ribblesdale High School, Clitheroe to provide aged 4-16 places. This will be achieved by providing 210 primary places on the neighbouring Higher Standen Farm site in a new building, commencing with an intake of 30 reception pupils for September 2023; and
- ii. Approval be given for an appropriate statutory decision letter to be sent out, as specified under legal requirements, to give the reasons for the decision to those who are to be informed of them.

## **9. School Place Provision Strategy 2022 to 2025**

Cabinet considered a report seeking approval for the School Place Provision Strategy for 2022 to 2025.

**Resolved:** That, after consideration of the priorities for improvement and areas for action referred in the draft School Place Provision Strategy 2022-25, as set out at Appendix 'A' of the report, the adoption of the School Place Provision Strategy 2022-25 be approved.

## **10. Urgent Decisions taken by the Leader of the County Council and the relevant Cabinet Member(s)**

It was noted that no urgent decisions have been taken on behalf of Cabinet since the last meeting.

## **11. Urgent Business**

It was noted that there was one item of urgent business in relation to the revised Terms of Reference of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

### **11(a) Health and Wellbeing Board Revised Terms of Reference**

Cabinet considered a report on the revised Terms of Reference for the Health and Wellbeing Board. It was agreed to accept the report as an urgent item in order to ensure that the changes requested could be considered by Full Council intime for implementation in January.

In presenting the report, it was noted that to ensure the Health and Wellbeing Board remained focussed and effective in tackling health inequalities in Lancashire, it was proposed to reduce the membership of the Health and Wellbeing Board to the statutory

members plus two additional councillors and four representatives from the district councils, three councillors and a District Chief Executive. The full list of the proposed membership was set out at Appendix 'A' of the report.

**Resolved:** That, Full Council be recommended to consider and approve the proposed changes to the membership of Health and Wellbeing Board, as set out at Appendix 'A' of the report.

## **12. Date of Next Meeting**

It was noted that the next meeting of Cabinet would be held at 2pm on Thursday 20 January 2021 at County Hall, Preston.

## **13. Notice of Intention to Conduct Business in Private**

Cabinet noted the Notice of Intention to Conduct Business in Private and that no representations had been received.

## **14. Exclusion of Press and Public**

**Resolved:** That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business on the grounds that there would be a likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the appropriate paragraph of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 as indicated against the heading to the item.

## **15. Former Skerton High School Site, Lancaster**

Exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 2 and 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972. The report contains information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual and information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). It is considered that in all the circumstances of the case the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

Cabinet considered a report on the site of the former Skerton High School in Lancaster.

**Resolved:** That, the recommendations as set out in the report, be approved.

## **16. Adult Social Care - Procurement of Consultancy Support Specialist**

Exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972. The report contains information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). It is considered that in all the circumstances of the case the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

Cabinet considered a report on the procurement of a Consultancy Support Specialist for Adult Social Care.

**Resolved:** That, the recommendations as set out in the report, be approved.

## **17. New Sporting Campus in Central Lancashire**

Exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972. The report contains information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). It is considered that in all the circumstances of the case the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

Cabinet considered a report that provided an update on the new sporting campus in Central Lancashire.

**Resolved:** That, the recommendations as set out in the report, be approved.

Angie Ridgwell  
Chief Executive and  
Director of Resources

County Hall  
Preston



**Questions to Cabinet**  
**Responses for the Cabinet Meeting on**  
**2 December 2021**

**Responses to the questions asked at the meeting**

1.	Questioner: County Councillor Erica Lewis	Respondent: County Council Susan Whittam (attending in place of County Councillor Graham Gooch at the meeting)
	<p><b><u>Item 5 - Adult Social Care Winter Plan 2021/22</u></b></p> <p>What assurance mechanisms are in place to ensure that care funded by Lancashire County Council is delivered in all settings?</p>	<p>The Winter Plan contains proposals for developing and expanding a number of key services to support vulnerable people and the wider health and social care system in Lancashire in the coming months. It is therefore important that the council and the public have confidence in the arrangements in place to ensure that the care we have planned and so I welcome the question as a chance to explain that.</p> <p>In the main it is Independent and voluntary sector social care providers who we have asked to deliver the additional services that are contained in the Winter plan. We have held extensive and in-depth meetings with senior management in these organisations over recent months to explain what we need for winter, and to check that they have the knowledge, track record and resources to run these additional services safely and effectively. In each case there is now a clear contract in place setting out the service requirements and price for these services to be set up and run.</p> <p>However, we are mindful of the risks that some of these services will still face in providing services to the levels we need. It is probably clear to everyone that workforce recruitment and retention challenges will pose the highest risk.</p>

		<p>So, own internal Intermediate Care Services Board – which has senior management involvement (Sue Lott) - will meet every fortnight though the coming months to monitor we are making the right progress, things are working well and the causes of any gaps or shortfalls in performance the services are understood and being addressed.</p> <p>We have also set out a number of initiatives to support the home care sector which here in Lancashire and elsewhere is under particular pressure. There are a range of financial and other improvement measures that we have explained to homecare agencies which we believe will make it more likely they can provide the quality and volumes of services that we need to support people at home.</p> <p>For individuals and their families, it is of course meeting their own particular needs and arranging support that will matter most. Adult Services has a Contract Management and Quality Improvement Team whose job it is to ensure that the care we pay for is delivered and of a good standard. This includes care homes, homecare, supported living, extra care and day services.</p> <p>Each type of service is subject to regular contract monitoring which involves a review of written evidence such as policies and procedures and a physical visit to the location. We also listen carefully to any concerns or complaints from families and also consider information from partners such as the NHS, Healthwatch and the Care Quality Commission. Undertaking this work has been more difficult during the pandemic – some of our staff have been deployed to other duties such as outbreak management and infection control, and there have</p>
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		<p>been restrictions on visits to services and to meet and hear from the people who use them. That situation has been easing more recently, and there has been a steady increase in more intensive work by our staff in those services where there are concerns</p> <p>Of course, where such concerns are substantiated, and especially where there are safeguarding issues, we work closely with partners and the management of the service to make sure problems are addressed. and the service moves back to operating safely and effectively as soon as possible. If improvements aren't achieved, and there are serious risks to people as a result, there are options in the contracts which, as a last resort, allows us to cease funding a particular service and transferring it to another organisation who can step in and provide what is needed.</p>
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### Responses to written questions

1.	Questioner: County Councillor Erica Lewis	Respondent: County Councillor Jayne Rear
	<p><b><u>Item 9 - School Place Provision Strategy 2022 to 2025</u></b></p> <p>The window for the school places strategy of just three years 2022 – 2025 does not seem realistic in terms of bringing new school places on line. Could further explanation be given as to why this time frame is so narrow and what this means for the phrases 'short-term delivery', 'medium-term delivery', and 'long-term delivery'?</p>	<p>The timeframe aligns with the Education Strategy which also runs 2022-25. Short-term refers to activity that aims to address an immediate place pressure or is in the planning process, Medium-term is where activity is being scoped out for delivery in the next 3 years. Longer-term is where we are working with local planning authorities (district councils) with regard to their Local Plans which may create a level of demand for places to the extent that a site for a new school site is required or has been secured.</p>

